

the design of turning to account the difference in level (about 300 feet) between the Karun and Zainderud, and by 'cleaving an intervening mountain spur to let the waters of the one pass into the other. The work of cleaving was carried on by his successors, but either the workmen failed to get through the flint which underlies the free-stone, or the downfall of the Sufari dynasty made an end of it, and nothing remains of what should have been a famous engineering enterprise but a huge cleft with tool marks upon it in the crest of the hill, "in length 300 yards, in breadth fifteen, and fifty feet deep."¹ Above it are great heaps of quarried stones and the remains of houses, possibly of overseers, and below are the remnants of the dam which was to have diverted the Karun water into the cleft.

On a cool, beautiful evening I came down from this somewhat mournful height to a very striking scene, where the peacock-blue branch from the Sar-i-Cheshmeh unites with the peacock-green stream from Kuh-i-Bang, the dark, high sides of their channels shutting out the mountains. Both rivers rush^turnultuously above their union, but afterwards glide downwards in a smooth, silent volume of most exquisite colour, so deep as to be unfordable, and fringed with green strips of grass and innumerable flowers. On emerging from the ravine the noble mass of the Zard Kuh was seen rose-coloured in the sunset, its crests and spires of snow cleaving the blue sky, and the bright waters and flower-starred grass of the plain gave

a smiling welcome home.

The next march was a very beautiful
one, most of
the way over the spurs and deeply-cleft
ravines of the
grand Kuh-i-Bang by sheep and goat
tracks, and no
tracks at all, a lonely and magnificent
ride, shut in
among mountains of great height, their
spurs green with

¹ *Six Months in Persia.*—Stack.

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